

May 15,  
1918.

"You are in a position to do great good in the reorganization of the party. The Progressives believe you to be an open-minded and fearless-hearted man, and that you are willing to stand by absolutely what a majority of the party may decide upon as public policy. The whole trouble seems to have been that the Progressives felt that no matter how much of a majority they had in the primaries in Eepublican States, the Eepublican organization would not permit the Eepublican party to become the kind of party which the majority in the Eepublican States felt it should be. We are only interested in the organization in so far as that organization gives us a free play to make the Eepublican party a constructive forward moving party and we are only interested in the Eepublican party in so far as it is just that.

<sup>61</sup> There is no use in trying to rally around the past. This war has buried the past. New issues are going to force themselves into American politics and those issues are going to require a party which believes in a strong centralized government that shall be strong for the purpose of construction and not for the purpose of checking the progress of things. The new issues which will require a strongly centralized government are going to revolve about:

"Transportation; price fixing; rigid public control if not ownership of mines, forests and waterways.

"And if the Eepublican party takes the ground that the

world must be the same old world, the  
Eepublican party is  
lost. There can be no doubt but that labor  
must have a  
new voice in the management of industrial  
affairs. The  
right of labor to collective bargaining, and in  
that right,  
the further right to know exactly how the  
books stand in  
every industrial concern is going to be a vital  
political  
question and the Eepublican party should take  
a construc-  
tive stand. It cannot afford to talk about  
constitutional  
rights of capital and try to dam the moving  
current of the  
times. I am satisfied that many Eepublicans  
who did not  
believe these things three and six years ago,  
are going to  
believe them now. And I feel that if you will  
give the Be-